the existing 22 blocks its performance needs to be watched before the question of its extension can be taken up.

Lifting of Palmolien Oil by Kerala Supplies Corporation

*513. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation has been asked by the Central Government to lift their quota of Palmolien oil from the Mangalore Port instead of from Cochin which is the nearest available port;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision; and

(c) whether the road transport charges from Mangalore to Cochin is to be borne by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Kerala Government has been asked to lift its allocation of imported edible oils from Mangalore which is the regular depot of the STC for that State. Keeping in view the present high allocation, they can be permitted to take delivery of imported edible oils from ships at Cochin in case they are able to arrange suitable storage at the port.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Newsmen accompanying the Prime Minister on Foreign Tours

*514. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1362 given in the Rajya Sabhas on the 20th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Indian Post' dated the October 17, 1987 to the effect that the Government of India had flouted all the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India on October 5, 1987 in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to follow the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the news item. It speaks of alleged discrimination in selecting the journalists accompanying the PM on his foreign tours and also refers to the guidelines issued by the Press Council for selection of journalists for official visits

(c) and (d) The Government have brought these guidelines to the notice of the concerned organisations. The principal criterion for selecting the journalists is to obtain best possible coverage in the print/electronic media. Due weightage is given to persons with expertise in covering the PM's engagements and the interest of representation to regions and languages.

Terrace Agriculture

*515. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to end Jhum (shifting cultivation) and popularise terrace agriculture to save forests; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) A scheme for dealing with the problem of shifting cultivation with 100 per cent Central assistance to State Plan has been introduced from the current year in nine States. Terrace Agriculture is one of the components of this scheme.

(b) Under this scheme it is proposed to permanently settle 25,000 jhumia families with an outlay of Rs. 75 crores spread over a period of five years starting from 1987-88. An outlay of Rs. 45 crores has been approved for the last three years (1987-88 to 1989-90) of the Seventh Plan.

The scheme envisages integrated development of selected villages on watershed basis and providing assistance for:

(i) development of land for permanent cultivation with bench terracing, bunding, etc.;

(ii) irrigation facilities wherever feasible;

(iii) necessary inputs for raising agriculture horticulture and plantation crops;

(iv) raising fuel and fodder plantations to meet the requirement of the village community;

(v) Subsidiary occupations like piggery, poultry, pisaculture, sericulture etc.

(vi) Protection of the watershed through appropriate soil and water conservation measures· and

(vii) essential infrastructure required for implementing the programme.

Allotment of Houses for Artists

*516. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA· Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for allotment of houses for artists under cultural quota; and

(b) if so, what is the number of persons still waiting for allotment of houses after the Department of Culture has recently made the usual recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) 12.

Circular Railway Line for Hyderabad

@*517. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA· Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a circular railway line for Hyderabad; and

(b) whether any representation have been received by the Central Government for such a line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) South Central Railway had carried out a preliminary techno-economic feasibility study of cilcular and allied rail transit system for Hyderabad Metropolitan area and a copy of the study report was forwarded to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in November, 1984 Based on the recommendations in the report the Government of Andhra Pradesh have written to the Government of India to consider the project.

@Previously Starred Question 477, transferred from the 9th December, 1987.